



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 12, 2016

CONTACT:

Rick Masson
Interim Executive Director
Memphis Shelby Crime Commission
Phone: 901-526-2700

CONTACT:

Jamel Major
Marketing Manager
University of Memphis
Phone: 901-678-1756

Gibbons to Lead Crime Commission and New Public Safety Institute at UofM

MEMPHIS, TN – University of Memphis President Dr. M. David Rudd and the Board of Directors of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission today announced the creation of the Public Safety Institute (PSI), to be directed by Bill Gibbons who will simultaneously serve as President of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, effective September 1, 2016.

Gibbons announced yesterday that he will leave his current position as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security on August 31. In addition, he chairs the Governor's Public Safety Subcabinet, which oversees implementation of a statewide public safety action plan.

"I am thankful for the opportunity Governor Haslam has given me to serve our entire state. We have made Tennessee a safer place over the past five and a half years through the efforts of the department and the governor's public safety subcabinet," he said.

The Public Safety Institute (PSI) at University of Memphis is a joint venture of the Crime Commission and the University of Memphis. It will be housed in the University's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, and will draw on researchers from multiple disciplines and departments across the University, including the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, as well as from other universities, to explore policies and strategies for improving public safety.

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that "quarterbacks" the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan. It is governed by a board comprised of 50 public and private sector leaders, most of whom are actively involved in leading various initiatives of the OSC plan. The Crime Commission maintained a contractual



relationship with University of Memphis' Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice for data and research prior to the retirement of Professor Richard Janikowski in 2013, and its leaders are pleased to reestablish a formal partnership with the University.

"We are proud to partner with the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission to host the Public Safety Institute at the University of Memphis," said President M. David Rudd. "The UofM has a strong history of research using technology and analytics to pioneer new ways to prevent and solve crime. We are excited to be able to contribute to a reduction in crime in the Memphis area. This is an important step in advancing the growth and development of our community."

Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm and Chairman of the Crime Commission board of directors said, "We could not be more pleased to have someone of Gibbons' expertise, experience and caliber – not to mention his deep knowledge of and strong relationships in Memphis -- to lead the Crime Commission and direct our new research partnership with the University."

Gibbons noted, "I am very impressed by the leadership at the University of Memphis. President Rudd and others have a clear vision and understanding of what the Public Safety Institute can mean for both the university and the Memphis community."

Gibbons additionally commented, "Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland has consistently called crime, in particular violent crime, our major challenge. I agree and welcome the opportunity to go to work every day as part of a team determined to meet this challenge head on."